United Nations A/67/656–S/2012/934

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 December 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 14 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 13 December 2012, on the 22nd round of the Geneva International Discussions (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

12-65402 (E) 211212

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 14 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the 22nd round of the Geneva International Discussions

The 22nd round of the Geneva International Discussions was held on 12 December 2012. The participants in the Geneva Discussions took part in an individual capacity in the two working groups, one focusing on security and stability in Georgia's occupied Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, and the other on issues related to the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their original residence. The discussions were co-chaired by representatives of the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and attended by the participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Head of the Provisional Administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District and the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, as well as representatives of the occupied regimes from Tskhinvali and Sokhumi, also took part in the 22nd round of the Geneva Discussions.

The participants from Georgia stressed the commitment of the new negotiating team formed after the parliamentary elections to the continuity of the Geneva International Discussions as the key format for the implementation of the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement.

On 11 December, an information session on humanitarian needs assessment methodologies was held. Invited experts acquainted the participants with international best practices and methodologies for assessing the needs of affected populations across the dividing lines and stressed the importance of guaranteeing humanitarian access to such areas.

In the framework of Working Group I of the Discussions, the participants addressed the issue of non-use of force. Georgia once again called on the Russian Federation to fulfil its outstanding obligation and to reciprocate Georgia's unilateral pledge not to use force. The expert group, created during the previous meeting, continued to work on a draft statement by the participants in the Geneva International Discussions on the non-use of force that had been tabled by the co-Chairs, and reviewed and incorporated amendments and changes proposed by the participants. The differences of opinion persist in a number of areas. However, Georgia particularly welcomes the continued engagement of the Russian participants in the drafting process as a step in the right direction towards a reciprocal non-use-of-force pledge by the Russian Federation. The drafting process will continue during the 23rd round of the Geneva International Discussions.

In Working Group I, the participants also discussed the security situation on the ground. Georgia raised concern over the continued obstruction of the Gali Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism and stressed the importance of its timely resumption in its full composition. They also highlighted the worrying trend of the increasing number of detentions for alleged violations of the crossing regulations, as well as additional impediments to the freedom of movement,

including for the most vulnerable individuals, seeking urgent medical assistance. In three such cases, patients died en route after being refused permission to cross.

Aiming to address these concerning developments in a durable manner, the co-Chairs presented a catalogue of best practices on freedom of movement, as implemented at various stages under the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms. The Georgian participants welcomed this proposal. It was agreed that various aspects of freedom of movement would be discussed in detail during the upcoming rounds of the Geneva Discussions, with the aim of creating an agreed practical framework for the freedom of movement.

The discussions in Working Group II started on a positive note. The Georgian participants reconfirmed their commitment to a humanitarian, people-centred approach. In the context of constructive engagement, several concrete projects were announced, including resumption of the gas supply to Akhalgori district. Regarding missing persons, the participants from Georgia referred to the outcome of a recent Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism meeting in Ergneti and strongly reaffirmed their dedication to resolve outstanding matters under the non-politicized, humanitarian leadership of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The co-Chairs, drawing on the information session held during the previous round, called upon the participants to reflect on the creation of a special body that would address the outstanding cases of missing persons. The Georgian participants noted this initiative with interest and agreed to provide feedback during upcoming meetings.

To the profound disappointment of the Georgian participants, the representatives of the Tskhinvali and Sokhumi occupation regimes, supported by the representatives from the Russian Federation, stopped discussion of pragmatic proposals, linking further engagement to their politically motivated agenda for the change of the format of the Geneva Discussions. Through this action, the occupation regimes demonstrated that, for them, political considerations related to status take priority over the humanitarian needs of the local population.

Similarly, participants from the regimes in Sokhumi and Tskhinvali continued to block the discussion on the core mandate of Working Group II related to the return of internally displaced persons and refugees. The concrete proposals of the co-Chairs on facilitating the humanitarian access of certain categories of residents to cemeteries, cultural and religious sites were left unanswered.

The representatives of the occupation regimes of Sokhumi and Tskhinvali, as well as Moscow, continued their concerted effort to achieve a change in the format of the Geneva Discussions. The co-Chairs stressed the vital importance of keeping the agreed format of the Geneva Discussions intact. The co-Chairs called for constructive engagement on issues, based on the mandate, that are reflected in the agenda of the two Working Groups. They also pointed out that humanitarian and human rights needs must be separated from the political issues.

Georgia thanks the co-Chairs for their efforts in steering the 22nd round of discussions and expresses its readiness to cooperate with them in a traditionally constructive spirit in preparing the next round of the discussions. Georgia expresses hope that all participants will re-engage positively in discussions to improve the security situation and address the humanitarian needs of the local population.

The 23rd round of the Geneva International Discussions will be held on 27 March 2013.

United Nations A/67/657

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 110 (c)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of five members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

Letter dated 19 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The United States Mission to the United Nations has the pleasure, on behalf of the 10 leading financial contributors to the United Nations Organization, to convey to you the names of the five leading financial contributors to serve on the Peacebuilding Commission's Organizational Committee during its fourth term, 2013-2014.

Canada, Japan, Spain and Sweden will serve the full two-year term in 2013 and 2014. Norway will serve one year in 2013, and Germany will serve one year in 2014.

This selection was done in accordance with resolutions establishing the Peacebuilding Commission, specifically paragraph 4 (c) of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and of Security Council resolution 1645 (2005).

I have conveyed the same information to the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, the President of the Economic and Social Council, and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

(*Signed*) Susan E. **Rice**

12-65461 (E) 201212

Please recycle

United Nations A/67/658

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 110 (c)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of five members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

Letter dated 20 December 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that the top 10 troop-contributing countries decided, at their meeting held on 13 December 2012, that the following five Member States, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Nigeria and Pakistan, will represent the troop-contributing country category on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission for the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2014.

I hope that this decision will facilitate the election of other Member States from the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission.

(*Signed*) William A. **Awinador-Kanyirige**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

12-66230 (E) 211212

Please recycle

United Nations A/67/659–S/2012/949

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 December 2012
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 20 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to bring the following to your attention:

Since the crisis in Syria began, certain States and organizations that are known for their antagonism to Syria and their political procedures have inverted the facts and distorted the tragic events that are taking place in the country. Those States and parties have falsely assigned responsibility for those events to the Government of Syria, supported by media that are their mercenaries, and have misled global public opinion and misrepresented the facts concerning events in Syria.

It came as no surprise to Syria that those parties should adopt wayward positions with regard to the emergency situation that has prevailed in the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in recent days as a result of an attack on the camp that was launched by the Nusrah Front and the other terrorist groups that support them. That attack caused a disaster that led to the innocent Palestinian refugees being displaced yet again, this time from their homes in the camp.

While Syria condemns all those who have permitted themselves to point the finger of suspicion at and hold Syria responsible for this disaster, which was the work of the terrorist groups, it would like to make it clear that for decades, since the Nakba that befell the Palestinian people, Syria has been committed to hosting Palestinian refugees on its territory. It has treated them as Syrian nationals and given them all the privileges that Syrian citizens enjoy. Syria has also dealt extremely constructively with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and has placed no restrictions or conditions on its activities, as may be attested by the Agency's records and all its staff inside and outside Syria. It is unfortunate that blame for what has taken place in the camp should be directed to the wrong party, when the terrorist organizations should be held accountable and condemned. Those organizations have, throughout the crisis in Syria, threatened the security and stability of the Palestinians, numbers of whom

Please recycle

they have killed. Recently, the Nusrah Front and their supporters attacked Yarmouk camp and the surrounding areas with mortar and machine gunfire and occupied parts thereof, forcing thousands of Palestinians to leave and destroying a hospital and a mosque. Hundreds of their personnel then entered the camp and have, to date, prevented the Syrian Arab Army, to which the inhabitants of the camp had appealed to intervene, from rescuing the lives and property of civilians in the camp.

Notwithstanding the difficulties that it is experiencing, Syria has throughout this period remained in permanent contact with various official and unofficial Palestinian political actors inside and outside the camp, with a view to ensuring that our brothers, the Palestinians, are not embroiled in what is taking place in Syria, and to distancing them from the treacherous clutches of the terrorists who have sought from the very beginning to involve them in the events, for reasons that are concealed from no one.

During the recent visit to Syria by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, the country reaffirmed its basic belief, based on a principled stand, that our brothers, the Palestinians, should not be embroiled in what is taking place in Syria and that the Palestinian refugees should not be involved in any way. In cooperation with Palestinian and international institutions, Syria has taken the initiative in providing all the forms of assistance and facilities that are necessary in order to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian refugees that has been caused by the occupation of Yarmouk camp by the Nusrah Front and their allies, the so-called Free Army.

Syria appeals to the United Nations and its Secretary-General to request the States that have supported the armed terrorist groups and encouraged them to occupy Yarmouk camp for purposes that are well known, and which plan their terrorist operations, to use their close relationship with the terrorist groups to prevail upon them to leave the camp forthwith, for the sake of the Palestinian refugees and in order to prevent the death and destruction that those groups spread wherever they go, rather than making base claims at the expense of the lives and suffering of the Palestinian people. It is the terrorists who attacked the camp and they who drove out the Palestinian refugees and they who are responsible for this crime.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic

United Nations A/67/660

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2012
English
Original: Arabic

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 20 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, and on the basis of the information available from the Syrian Union of Chambers of Industry, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

Because of the terrorist operations that are being carried out by armed groups in Syria, the huge amount of damage that has been sustained in the city of Aleppo at all levels, including the humanitarian, the economic and the cultural levels, has exceeded all expectations. That is particularly true with regard to the heritage and cultural aspects of a city that has been a repository of the human cultural heritage for more than 7,000 years.

In this context, we refer to all the industrial and productive areas that have been deliberately destroyed, systematically looted and subjected to commercial terrorism. The same applies to commercial shops and markets in various parts of the city of Aleppo. The terrorists have also deliberately targeted the tourism sector, destroying and looting most of the tourist installations; burning and destroying historic markets; transforming the whole of the old city and its caravanserais and souks into a battleground and setting fire to everything therein with a savagery that has no precedent in the city.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations would like to notify you that the Syrian Union of Chambers of Industry, in its capacity as the representative of the economic actors in Aleppo, has asked that you should be informed that it reserves its right to use all international bodies to seek material and moral compensation from the States that are supporting the armed opposition, with a view to transferring such compensation to all those in the city of Aleppo who have been affected.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative

12-66092 (E) 211212 241212

Please recycle

United Nations A/67/661

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 70 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 17 December 2012 from the Permanent Representatives of Qatar and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose herewith the recommendations of the first International Conference on the HOPEFOR initiative (see annex I) and the conclusions of the second International Conference on the HOPEFOR initiative, including the panel outcomes (see annex II), adopted in Doha on 29 November 2011 and in Antalya, Turkey, on 30 November 2012, respectively. The initiative and the Conferences aimed to improve the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response.

We kindly request your assistance in circulating the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70 (a).

(*Signed*) Sheikh Meshal Hamad M. J. **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

12-66098 (E) 110113

Please recycle

Annex I to the letter dated 17 December 2012 from the Permanent Representatives of Qatar and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Recommendations of the First International Conference on the HOPEFOR initiative to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of the use of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response, held from 27 to 29 November 2011 in Doha

Preamble

The State of Qatar, the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Turkey have endorsed the HOPEFOR initiative in the context of promoting civil-military coordination at the international and regional levels and the effective use of military and civil defence assets in natural disaster response.

The HOPEFOR initiative was initially launched by His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, in June 2010 in New York, aiming at improving the use of military and civil defence assets in relief operations.

Notable calls have also been made for a more effective and needs-based response to natural disasters, most prominently by His Excellency Dr. Leonel Fernandez, President of the Dominican Republic, and His Excellency Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, at the general debate of the General Assembly on 23 September 2010. Qatar, the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Turkey decided to join efforts in presenting the HOPEFOR initiative and initiating a process of reflection on improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response within the context of the United Nations and its membership.

After officially launching the initiative, several in-depth consultations have taken place with Member States and a wide range of stakeholders to further refine the HOPEFOR initiative and propose tangible options and results.

On 21 February 2011, the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar addressed the President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the steps taken regarding the HOPEFOR initiative (A/65/772). The background paper entitled "HOPEFOR initiative: a global cooperative framework to improve the effectiveness of military and civil defence assets in relief operations", prepared by Qatar in consultation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, was then shared among the wider membership of the United Nations.

In preparation for the Doha International Conference, Qatar, the Dominican Republic and Turkey co-organized a workshop on the HOPEFOR initiative in June 2012, with the participation of civil-military coordination experts drawn from States, United Nations humanitarian organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations. The overall objective of the workshop was to discuss and refine the options listed in the initial background paper with a view to informing the expert consultations during the conference.

The General Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session, adopted resolution 65/307 on 1 July 2011 entitled "Improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response", which was presented by the State

of Qatar, the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Turkey with the co-sponsorship of other Member States. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly "takes note with interest of the decision of Qatar, the Dominican Republic and Turkey to co-convene an international conference, to be held in Doha in 2011, to discuss the concept of the HOPEFOR initiative and consider the options outlined in the paper thereon and steps for their implementation, as appropriate, in close collaboration with Member States, regional and international organizations and the Emergency Relief Coordinator". By the resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, emphasized the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirmed the need in situations of natural disaster in which military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, for such use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles.

In response to the will of many countries and organizations to further the dialogue on the options outlined in the background paper on the HOPEFOR initiative, and in order to emphasize the involvement of all international and regional partners with a view to formulating the implementation steps, the first International Conference on the HOPEFOR initiative to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of the use of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response was held from 27 to 29 November 2011 in Doha.

The Conference reiterated the need to more actively promote a common understanding of and respect for the core humanitarian principles and the principled engagement in disaster response. Delegates also reaffirmed the importance of ensuring that military and civil defence assets to support humanitarian assistance are needs-based, appropriate, complementary to the humanitarian response operations, timely, unique in capability and availability (last resort), and in conformity with international law and humanitarian principles, as well as international guidelines, such as the Oslo Guidelines, the military and civil defence assets guidelines, international disaster response laws and country/context-specific guidance, where present.

The participants in the Conference discussed in depth all of the topics listed in workshops and panels, notably on training and doctrine, operational capacity, preparedness and prevention, strengthening networks of personnel and the creation of a regional centre of excellence with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of the appropriate use of military and civil defence assets to support humanitarian operations. They also took into account previous initiatives and regional and international experiences in this context.

The Conference reiterated its support for the mandate of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the key role it plays in the international humanitarian response system in mobilizing and coordinating effective and principled humanitarian assistance.

After a careful study of the mechanisms within the United Nations system for the response to natural disasters, and the commendation of the significant role played by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in support for the HOPEFOR initiative, the Conference adopted the recommendations below.

Strengthening of existing institutional systems and frameworks and areas for cooperation

The Conference stresses the need to strengthen institutional systems and frameworks at the local, regional and international levels and emphasizes the need for effective cooperation and more efficient coordination in the response to natural disasters, including response to environmental and technological consequences, while reiterating that the primary role and responsibility in disaster response lies with the affected State.

The Conference recommends the following:

1. The promotion of international, regional and subregional coordination mechanisms to promote the effective use of foreign military and civil defence assets in response to natural disasters in support of existing international structures, while respecting national ownership and leadership;

2. The strengthening of the existing strategic coordination mechanisms, particularly the Consultative Group on the Use of the Military and Civil Defence Assets, through regional meetings and further working groups, and exploration of the formalization of structures, to include the addition of a board structure within the Consultative Group and the enhancement of regional and subregional representation;

3. The development of a sustainable mechanism for operational regional civil-military coordination, communication and cooperation in support of the existing international response system among all actors in the field through the organization of training, conferences and international, regional and subregional meetings;

4. The development of innovative measures and procedures to ensure a more effective use of military and civil defence assets (requesting and providing procedures for such assets) taking into account the humanitarian principles, the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative, the principles of last resort and the needs-based use of military and civil defence assets in all phases of relief operations in response to natural disasters, with the participation of international actors in support of local and national authorities;

5. The promotion of the further dissemination and implementation of the Oslo Guidelines to humanitarian and military actors at the international, regional and national levels;

6. The establishment of new and, where appropriate, the integration of existing regional and subregional databases for the inventory, monitoring and documentation of military and civil defence assets, teams and individual expertise suitable for use in disaster response operations, and facilitation of their engagement in a principled and coordinated manner, according to national practice and applicable national laws and regulations;

7. The development of procedures for the timely deployment and integration of purpose-trained civil-military coordination/liaison officers in support of the United Nations humanitarian coordination system in humanitarian response operations;

8. The establishment of a roster of qualified civil-military coordination personnel capable of operating at the national and regional levels in natural disaster response operations;

9. Support through regional centres of excellence for the development and dissemination of national doctrines, standard operational procedures and legal status agreements for the use, request and deployment of military and civil defence assets and the coordination of these assets in natural disaster response in order to facilitate national, regional and international response operations;

10. Support for the upgrade and update of handbooks of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on civil-military coordination in an inclusive and participatory manner with interested Member States and humanitarian organizations to adapt these handbooks to regional needs and realities;

11. An invitation to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, with the support of interested States, international and intergovernmental organizations and civil society, to conduct a thorough study with the ultimate goal of identifying further gaps and providing recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness of civil-military coordination and operations. This study could serve as a follow-up to the study commissioned by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs entitled *The Effectiveness of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response*, conducted by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in 2008, and incorporate recent experiences from large-scale disasters that would assist in informing decision-making and policymaking, as well as developing practical solutions to increase the effectiveness of employing military and civil-defence assets. Central to this recommendation is the creation of an advisory committee representing regional and subregional interests to steer the direction of the study and determine resourcing requirements;

12. The continued inclusion of the options of the HOPEFOR initiative and the implementation of the recommendations of this Conference in the agenda of the Consultative Group on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets and other relevant regional and international forums according to applicable rules of procedure.

Capacity-building and preparedness

The Conference stresses the need to improve national, regional and international capacities by encouraging cooperation between centres of excellence and the establishment of centres of excellence in all regions, as appropriate, and commends in this context the integration of experiences of the existing regional and national centres of excellence.

The Conference recommends the following:

1. The development of practical applications to serve as a model for civil-military coordination in support of the existing international framework;

2. The promotion of cooperation and partnerships among international, regional and subregional centres of excellence in order to benefit from expertise, resources and the exchange of information, and to contribute to the strengthening and expansion of the network of practitioners in the field of humanitarian civil-military coordination;

3. The encouragement of dialogue, cooperation and understanding between humanitarian and military practitioners on the ground for the optimal use of military and civil defence assets in response to natural disasters;

4. Work on strengthening preparedness capacities through the creation of structures and utilization of equipment and through international and regional early warning systems to support the use of military and civil defence assets and improve their response to natural disasters;

5. The collection, documentation, and dissemination of best practices to guide decision-making, policy development and operations;

6. The consolidation and dissemination of concepts, competencies and principles in civil-military coordination among civilian and military personnel and specialists in support of internationally recognized values and principles, including through jointly developed civilian and military simulation exercises;

7. The further promotion of collaboration between States, regional organizations, and international humanitarian organizations with a view to enhancing capacity-building actions and the development of national, subregional and regional doctrines and databases.

The Conference commends the announcement by His Excellency Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar for the establishment of a centre of excellence based in Doha and the intention of the State of Qatar to develop the implementation strategies, actions and legal options for the establishment of the centre, as well as the follow-up and coordination. The centre can serve as a platform for the common understanding of principled, effective and coordinated use of military and civil defence assets and for training, joint simulation exercises, doctrine development, policy dialogue and the sharing of regional experiences and best practices.

The Conference welcomes the call by the State of Qatar, the Dominican Republic and Turkey to organize regional meetings and workshops to continue consultation, cooperation and coordination regionally and subregionally, which can be a basis for strengthening the effective use of military and civil defence assets in support of existing international coordination efforts, and invites all other regions to convene similar workshops.

The Conference requests the co-sponsors to inform the General Assembly in its current session on the outcome of the Conference in response to resolution 65/307, and encourages the Assembly to constructively continue the dialogue on the recommendations.

The participants express their appreciation to the State of Qatar for hosting the International Conference on the HOPEFOR initiative to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of the use of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response, and for providing all necessary support to make it a success. They also thank all Member States that co-sponsored resolution 65/307. They express pleasure and look forward to the organization of the next landmark event within the HOPEFOR frameworks to be held in the Republic of Turkey in early 2012.

They also express their appreciation to the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for the significant role it played in reaching a consensus on the recommendations of this Conference.

Annex II to the letter dated 17 December 2012 from the Permanent Representatives of Qatar and the Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Conclusions of the Second International HOPEFOR Conference, held from 28 to 30 November 2012 in Antalya, Turkey

Preamble

At the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the President of the Republic of Turkey suggested the establishment of a "global rapid reaction capability" to effectively tackle the negative effects of disasters by utilizing military assets for disaster relief. The President of the Dominican Republic made a call to Member States suggesting that countries at risk work together to determine best practices on disaster relief operations. Both of the above calls endorsed and supported the initiative that was already announced by the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar in 2010.

The Republic of Turkey, the State of Qatar and the Dominican Republic have launched the HOPEFOR initiative, which aims to promote civil-military coordination at the international and regional levels and the effective use of military and civil defence assets in disaster response.

After the workshop organized by the three countries and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in June 2011 in New York, the General Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session, adopted resolution 65/307 on 1 July 2011 entitled "Improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response", in which Member States, inter alia, recognized the importance of the initiative.

The first international conference co-organized by Qatar, Turkey and the Dominican Republic convened in Doha from 27 to 29 November 2011 with a view to discussing the concept of the HOPEFOR initiative and considering the options outlined in the background paper of Qatar and steps for their implementation.

International Conference on the HOPEFOR initiative

At the end of the first Conference, the participants made the recommendations below.

Strengthening of existing institutional systems and frameworks and areas for cooperation

The Conference stresses the need to strengthen institutional systems and frameworks at the local, regional and international levels and emphasizes the need for effective cooperation and more efficient coordination in the response to natural disasters, including to environmental and technological consequences, while reiterating that the primary role and responsibility in disaster response lies with the affected State.

Capacity-building and preparedness

The Conference stresses the need to improve national, regional and international capacities by encouraging cooperation between centres of excellence and the establishment of centres of excellence in all regions, as appropriate, and commends in this context the integration of experiences of the existing regional and national centres of excellence.

Objectives of the Second International HOPEFOR Conference

The Conference, organized by the Prime Ministry's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, convened in Antalya from 28 to 30 November 2012.

The Conference was built upon the theoretical discussions and recommendations of the First HOPEFOR Conference, convened in Doha on the effective coordination of military and civil defence assets in support of disaster response operations.

Three panels provided the participants with the opportunity to elaborate on the conference objectives, aimed at developing the initiative in practical terms (see enclosure):

- To discuss examples on the operational implementation of civil-military coordination in natural disaster cases, including examples of best practices of operational civil-military cooperation and/or coordination in different disaster cases at the national, regional and international levels
- To share different experiences of civil-military coordination at the stages of preparedness and response, including civil-military cooperation and/or coordination in the preparedness phase to natural disasters
- To explore ways to enhance the civil-military coordination at the regional, subregional and international levels, including effective coordination of military and civil defence assets at all levels.

The reports on the outcomes of the three panels constitute an integral part of the conclusions of the Second International HOPEFOR Conference.

Recommendations

The Second International HOPEFOR Conference, in line with the in-depth and fruitful discussions held during the three panels, agreed on the below recommendations to the international community.

First, Member States are encouraged to bring their national legislations in line with the principles and concepts contained in the Oslo Guidelines.

One of the main obstacles on the use of the military and civil defence assets identified by the Conference is the inapplicability of a unique model of legislation. In most cases, the Oslo Guidelines are implemented as a model. However, there are incidents when national legislations conflict with the concept and principles of the Oslo Guidelines, resulting in the loss of valuable response time.

Therefore, the Conference deems it vital for Member States to adapt their legislations in line with the Oslo Guidelines with a view to allowing military and

civil defence assets to conduct their international operations in a timely manner to save lives and provide assistance to the most needy.

The Conference invites Members States that have the intention to develop or revise their legislations to consult with and seek guidance from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Second, Member States are encouraged to establish national military and civil defence assets teams.

The Conference notes that many Member States have the capacity and ability to address the results of disasters occurring in their territory with national military and civil defence assets teams, which operate in full coordination with or as an integral part of national emergency management systems.

The Conference also takes note of the fact that, in most countries, the national teams consist of separate military and civil defence assets. It recommends the establishment of national military and civil defence assets teams in order to increase the efficiency and coordination of these assets in addressing the immediate results of natural disasters.

The Conference invites Member States that plan to establish military and civil defence assets teams to seek advice from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in defining the basic standards and skill sets for such teams. It also appreciates the offer by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to provide training expertise and guidance in this regard.

Third, Member States are encouraged to create cadres of trained pools of civil-military coordination experts at the regional and subregional levels who are available to deploy, when required, to assist in the coordination of domestic, bilateral, and foreign military and civil defence assets on behalf of the affected State and the international humanitarian community.

In large-scale disasters, especially those that affect a large part of the population, international assistance is vital to save lives. In most cases, it becomes challenging for the affected State(s) to coordinate the often overwhelming amount of incoming assistance and aid providers. In these cases, the field-level experience of military and civil defence assets experts and practitioners would provide international coordination expertise in support of the affected Government.

However, recent large-scale disasters have proved that the current international capacity should be strengthened with such expertise and practice on the ground.

Therefore, the Conference recommends the creation of a cadre of Member State focal points for immediate triggering of the deployment of national and foreign military and civil defence assets teams and assets, when required, to be in a position to reach the disaster-affected areas, on behalf of the affected Government and the international humanitarian community.

Fourth, Member States are encouraged to establish international/regional/subregional civil-military centres for excellence and of a worldwide network linking the centres.

The Conference takes note of the utility of the existing regional civil-military centres of/for excellence to provide the international community with the capability of obtaining best practices and understanding in responding to natural disasters.

Welcoming the decision of the State of Qatar, the Republic of Turkey and the Dominican Republic to establish centres of excellence, it also invites Member States to establish additional centres for excellence, in particular as joint regional efforts, and to harmonize activities among existing centres with regard to studies, meetings, workshops and training on military and civil defence assets, in coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Closing remarks

The Conference requests the co-sponsors to inform the General Assembly at its current session on the outcomes of the conferences held in Doha in 2011 and in Antalya in 2012 in response to resolution 65/307, and encourages the Assembly to constructively continue the dialogue on the recommendations.

The participants express their appreciation to the Republic of Turkey for hosting the International Conference on the HOPEFOR initiative to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of the use of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response and for providing all the necessary support to make it a success.

They also thank all Member States who co-sponsored resolution 65/307.

The Conference participants look forward to the organization of the Third International Conference on the HOPEFOR initiative, to be held in the Dominican Republic in 2013.

Enclosure

Panel 1: examples of best practices of operational civil-military cooperation and/or coordination in different disaster cases at the national and international levels

Main outcomes and recommendations

1. The institutionalization of lessons learned and best practices is of great help in preparing for future responses, more so in disaster-prone countries having to deal with recurring emergencies.

2. There is a need to improve global rapid response mechanisms that are effectively coordinated and capable of providing efficient and effective coordination structures and support.

3. It is important to have a proactive approach to holding joint trainings, setting up logistics arrangements for civil-military coordination and ensuring the readiness of deployable teams and military and civil defence assets. Joint training is critical to enhance the knowledge of civilian and military actors in each other's roles and responsibilities, for example, through Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs civil-military coordination courses. It is also critical to hold simulation exercises at a level that allows for real engagement with and between deployable teams and troops.

4. Pre-disaster and continuous civil-military coordination and cooperation help to better plan for and respond when an emergency strikes. The early establishment of civil-military coordination structures and mechanisms upon deployment to an emergency situation helps with the overall response effectiveness. It is also important to ensure that it is clear to all stakeholders who are the focal points for civil-military coordination and cooperation in the specific response/mission.

5. It must be ensured that civil-military coordination includes coordination with urban search and rescue teams

6. Building resilience of communities and preparedness to deal with emergencies is vital.

7. It is necessary that Member States and humanitarian organizations, most notably the United Nations, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and non-governmental organizations, coordinate their work and coordinate with the military to achieve successful outcomes in response to natural disasters.

8. It is critical to respect humanitarian principles, as well as the sovereignty of the affected State when deploying a response team and carrying out civil-military coordination. Also important is to bear in mind that military defence assets are to be used as a last resort in humanitarian response and that they are best used to meet a unique need with a specific capability, during a limited period of time, that cannot be fulfilled by civilian humanitarian organizations.

9. The development of country- and situation-specific civil-military coordination guidelines helps to tailor how coordination is to be done, from cooperation to coexistence, according to the operational context.

10. Building resilience and reducing disaster risk is seen as key. Other key points in terms of preparedness and response are the creation of a pool of civil defence and military experts in disaster response, the establishment of centres for excellence in countries that have the capacity to help coordinate regional response and the creation of synergies between those able to prepare for and respond to critical emergencies and needs.

11. The establishment of a regional civil-military centre for excellence in Qatar will help to promote civil-military coordination in times of natural disasters. A working group has been created to help establish the centre. Qatar also aims to establish strong regional partnerships and to improve coordination with all existing civil-military centres for excellence in order to join forces and make the best use of existing resources. There is a need to revise and improve the recommendations that came out of the First International HOPEFOR Conference, held in Doha in 2011, including supporting the establishment of a more robust and effective humanitarian aid system.

12. The Third International HOPEFOR Conference will be held in the Dominican Republic in 2013, with the support of the President of the Republic, where the sharing of lessons learned will be fostered. It is also foreseen to establish a centre for excellence in the region.

Panel 2: civil-military cooperation and/or coordination on the preparedness phase to natural disasters

Main outcomes and recommendations

1. All panellists agreed that training, interactive dialogue and joint exercises are key preparedness measures to ensure appropriate coordination in responding to natural disasters.

2. A holistic approach is necessary to be better prepared to respond to disasters. Focusing on preparedness requires the development of a risk reduction strategy. This strategy should focus on capacity-building and risk mitigation through appropriate training and public awareness, comprehensive assessment of the potential risks and an efficient emergency information management system.

3. Minimum standards, standard operating procedures, training and joint field exercises are key preparedness measures to ensure a coordinated response when disaster strikes. Joint field exercises involving civilian and military actors are essential to test international cooperation, cross-border procedures, the application of international guidelines and coordination.

4. There is a wide range of tasks that can be implemented by the military to respond to natural disasters. In order to be better prepared, there is a need for civilian and military actors to be aware of each other's capabilities and gaps.

5. Preparedness needs to be pursued at the national and regional levels and within a legal framework. As an example, in Latin America, countries are developing a protocol to request assistance to neighbouring countries. The protocol, signed by all the Ministries of Defence of the area, would allow an enhanced cooperation mechanism to respond to natural disasters.

6. Training, policy development, advocacy and liaison are key elements in terms of preparedness to ensure an appropriate response to natural disasters. The recognition of the Oslo Guidelines by all stakeholders is essential for the development of context-specific guidelines tailored to a particular situation. As natural disasters may also occur in a complex emergency or insecure environment, developing context-specific guidelines appears to be a key preparedness measure.

7. As illustrated by the HOPEFOR initiative, regional civil-military centres are key to ensure a coordinated "neighbour helping neighbour" approach. Based on a close collaboration with regional and international actors, such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the development of such centres will ensure capacity-building at the national and regional levels and the strengthening of existing regional centres.

8. A timely response to national disasters requires pre-existing mechanisms, such as civil protection structures and organizations.

9. A participatory and horizontal approach is necessary in terms of preparedness. Affected populations should be involved in the capacity-building component of the preparedness phase.

10. Discussions highlighted the fact that militaries can valuably contribute to humanitarian action through their ability to rapidly mobilize and deploy unique assets and expertise in response to specifically identified requirements. However, the principle of "last resort" should be applied when using foreign military assets, ensuring that these assets complement civilian capabilities and are requested when they help meet the requirement and provide unique advantages in terms of capability, availability and timeliness.

Panel 3: effective coordination of civil-military assets at the regional and international levels

Main outcomes and recommendations

1. A good understanding of civil-military coordination and cooperation guidelines, principles and concepts, as well as of the different roles and mandates of civilians and the military, is paramount.

2. Recommendations for better civil-military coordination at the regional level include: (a) common training, through workshops and exercise simulations; (b) appointing civil-military coordination focal points at the Government and local authority level; (c) building local capacities to respond to emergencies; and (d) establishing regional civil-military centres for excellence.

3. Recommendations for furthering the HOPEFOR initiative included: (a) including principles and concepts of the Oslo Guidelines in national legislations; (b) sharing lessons learned and best practices and institutionalizing them, including through the creation of civil-military centres for excellence; (c) creating regional trained and rostered capacity for civil-military coordination to shorten the timespan needed to deploy civilian and military response teams; and (d) simulating regional civil-military coordination and cooperation, including to facilitate the response to a particular emergency and the deployment of emergency response teams to the affected State(s).

4. Challenges to civil-military coordination include the need to improve coordination mechanisms and the increasingly complex operational context.

5. Better coordination is needed at all levels, as is independence from political and institutional concerns and giving priority to alleviating human suffering when responding to natural disasters and emergencies.

6. Attention must be given to the issues of security and humanitarian space when conducting civil-military coordination and cooperation.

7. Ensuring the participation of the military in coordination mechanisms, where appropriate, can help to avoid duplication of efforts and lack of communication and coordination between civilian-humanitarian and military actors, and to make the best possible use of existing resources, expertise and assets.

8. Coordination between foreign organizations and local authorities and between national and international military, is critical for an effective response.

9. Investment in training and building local capacity for emergency response in a proactive rather than reactive manner, coupled with contingency planning and early coordination and cooperation, can greatly improve the outcome and success of the response.

10. It has been demonstrated through an academic perspective that information management is key to guaranteeing a coordinated response to humanitarian crisis. It was suggested that cluster leads act as information hubs in order to ensure that the civilian or military response meets the needs through an appropriate dispatch of information. Standardization of information exchanges, professionalization of the humanitarian sector, promotion of a constant dialogue and joint planning were recommended to favour effective coordination of civil-military assets.

11. Lessons learned constitute an important part of exchange of information. However, experience shows that lessons learned are not shared sufficiently, which leads to their repetition in cases of natural disasters.

12. The earthquake that struck Pakistan in 2005 illustrated the need to have a trained and effective national disaster management system to serve as a coordinating platform, including civil-military coordination.

13. Experience from the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010 showed the importance of the deployment of liaison officers and joint civil-military assessment team(s) at the very onset of a crisis. The existence of civil-military coordination guidelines in national policies is key to facilitating the decision-making process for an efficient and rapid response.

14. In disaster-prone areas, there is a need to strengthen coordination with regional partners in preparedness and response phases. Developing common strategies and plans, improving information-sharing and management are essential to ensure a coordinated response at the regional level.

15. Participants discussed the issue of standards in humanitarian response. Standards do exist, such as those of the Sphere Project, and there was general agreement that there was a need to ensure their implementation when disaster strikes.

16. Using military assets to ensure security in the aftermath of a disaster was identified as a potential request in terms of civil-military coordination. Panellists agreed on the fact that security is the responsibility of the affected Government.

United Nations A/67/662

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 139

Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Justin **Kisoka** (United Republic of Tanzania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th and 17th meetings, on 9 October and 7 December 2012. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/67/SR.4 and 17).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the statistical report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system (A/67/215).

II. Consideration of draft decision A/C.5/67/L.3

4. At its 17th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system", submitted following informal consultations by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania and Rapporteur of the Committee (A/C.5/67/L.3).

12-66679 (E) 170113

Please recycle

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/67/L.3 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the statistical report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system.[1]

[1] A/67/215.

United Nations A/67/663

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 153

Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Justin **Kisoka** (United Republic of Tanzania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 21st and 22nd meetings, on 18 and 24 December 2012. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/67/SR.21 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/67/618);

(b) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/638).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.4

4. At its 22nd meeting, on 24 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste" (A/C.5/67/L.4), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee and representative of Saudi Arabia on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.4 without a vote (see para. 6).

12-66672 (E) 170113

Please recycle

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 2037 (2012) of 23 February 2012, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 31 December 2012,

Recalling also its resolutions 61/249 A of 22 December 2006 and 61/249 B of 2 April 2007 on the financing of the Mission, and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 66/270 of 21 June 2012,

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

Financing of the appropriation

2. *Decides*, taking into account the amount of 78,393,550 dollars already apportioned for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2012 under the terms of its resolution 66/270, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 11,590,700 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission for the same period in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 64/249 of 24 December 2009 and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2012, as set out in its resolution 64/248 of 24 December 2009;

3. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 2 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 414,900 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission;

4. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 13,485,550 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2013, inclusive of 10,094,000 dollars for the anticipated administrative liquidation of the Mission subject to a decision by the Security Council for the period from 1 January to 30 April 2013, and 3,215,950 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 175,600 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2013 in accordance with the contribution levels for the period 2013-2015,[3] and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2013;[3]

---

[1] A/67/618.

[2] A/67/638.

[3] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

5. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 4 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund in the amount of 827,750 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 436,900 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 322,600 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 68,250 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

6. *Also decides* to keep under review during its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste".

United Nations A/67/664

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 133

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Justin **Kisoka** (United Republic of Tanzania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 9th and 22nd meetings, on 23 October and 24 December. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/67/SR.9 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Conferences (A/67/32);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/67/127 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/523).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.5

4. At its 22nd meeting, on 24 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/C.5/67/L.5), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Senegal.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.5 without a vote (see para. 6).

12-66697S (E) 210113

Please recycle

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 51/211 A to E of 18 December 1996, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 53/208 A to E of 18 December 1998, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002, 57/283 A of 20 December 2002, 57/283 B of 15 April 2003, 58/250 of 23 December 2003, 59/265 of 23 December 2004, 60/236 A of 23 December 2005, 60/236 B of 8 May 2006, 61/236 of 22 December 2006, 62/225 of 22 December 2007, 63/248 of 24 December 2008, 63/284 of 30 June 2009, 64/230 of 22 December 2009, 65/245 of 24 December 2010 and 66/233 of 24 December 2011,

Reaffirming its resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2012[1] and the relevant report of the Secretary-General,[2]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Reaffirming the provisions relating to conference services in its resolutions on multilingualism, in particular resolution 65/311 of 19 July 2011,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly in administrative and budgetary matters;

2. *Recalls* its resolution 14 (I) of 13 February 1946 and the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly;

I
Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee on Conferences for 2012;[1]

2. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2013, as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[4] taking into account the observations of the Committee and subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/67/32).

[2] A/67/127 and Corr.1.

[3] A/67/523.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/67/32), annex II.

3. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2013 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretariat has taken into account the arrangements referred to in General Assembly resolutions 53/208 A, 54/248, 55/222, 56/242, 57/283 B, 58/250, 59/265, 60/236 A, 61/236, 62/225, 63/248, 64/230, 65/245 and 66/233 concerning Orthodox Good Friday and the official holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and requests all intergovernmental bodies to observe those decisions when planning their meetings;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings is implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Invites* Member States to include in new legislative mandates adequate information on the modalities for the organization of conferences or meetings;

7. *Recalls* rule 153 of its rules of procedure, and requests the Secretary-General to include the modalities of conferences in resolutions involving expenditure, taking into account the trends of similar meetings, with a view to mobilizing conference services and documentation in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible;

8. *Also recalls* section II.A, paragraph 16, of its resolution 66/233, and in this respect concurs with the observations in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences regarding the biennial calendar of meetings of the Economic and Social Council;[2]

II

A
Utilization of conference-servicing resources

1. *Reaffirms* the practice that, in the use of conference rooms, priority must be given to meetings of Member States;

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and Member States to adhere to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instruction for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits;[5]

3. *Emphasizes* that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

4. *Notes* that the overall utilization factor at the four main duty stations in 2011 was 85 per cent, as in 2010, and 86 per cent in 2009, which is above the established benchmark of 80 per cent;

5. *Welcomes* the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programmes of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and requests the Committee on Conferences to intensify

[5] ST/AI/416.

consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources;

6. *Recognizes* that late starts and unplanned early endings seriously affect the utilization factor of the bodies owing to the amount of time lost, and invites the secretariats and bureaux of bodies to pay adequate attention to avoiding late starts and unplanned early endings;

7. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by the bodies entitled to meet "as required" that were provided with interpretation services in New York in 2011 was 96 per cent, as compared with 94 per cent in 2010, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to impress upon such bodies the need to strive to optimize the utilization of the conference services provided and to report on the provision of conference services to those bodies through the Committee on Conferences;

8. *Reiterates its request* to intergovernmental bodies to review their meeting entitlements and to plan and adjust their programmes of work on the basis of their actual utilization of conference-servicing resources in order to improve their efficient use of conference services;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States are met, and requests the Secretariat to inform the requesters as early as possible about the availability of conference services, including interpretation, as well as about any changes that might occur before the holding of meetings;

10. *Notes* that the percentage of meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States that were provided with interpretation services at the four main duty stations was 91 per cent in 2011, as compared with 84 per cent in 2010, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to employ innovative means to address the difficulties experienced by Member States owing to the lack of conference services for some meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

11. *Once again urges* intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services, well in advance, of any cancellations so that unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts of all users of conference services to inform the Secretariat as early as possible of any cancellation of service requests so as to allow for such services to be smoothly redeployed to other meetings;

13. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with several resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 66/233, section II.A, paragraph 12, in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies were held in Nairobi in 2011, and requests the Secretary-General to report

thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session through the Committee on Conferences;

14. *Notes with concern* the recurring underutilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, and recognizes the ongoing promotional efforts and initiatives of the Commission;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional means to increase the utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, among others with its partners such as the African Union, and to report thereon, including on the impact of the initiatives of the Commission, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the heads of United Nations system entities to use as a matter of priority, when applicable, the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure greater utilization of the conference facilities;

17. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to formulate a more competitive pricing structure and an appropriate marketing strategy for the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa;

18. *Recognizes* the proactive efforts of the Secretary-General to identify ways to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in conference services;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose, at its sixty-eighth session, a comprehensive review of conference servicing, highlighting any duplication or redundancy, with a view to identifying innovative ideas, potential synergies and other cost-saving measures, without compromising the quality of the services;

20. *Reiterates its request* to the Committee on Conferences that it consult those bodies that have consistently utilized less than the applicable benchmark of their allocated resources for the past three years, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources, and urges the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilize their conference-servicing resources to work more closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat and to consider changes to their programmes of work, as appropriate, including adjustments based on previous patterns of recurring agenda items, with a view to making improvements in their utilization factors;

21. *Requests* the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to address a letter to the presiding officers of intergovernmental bodies based at duty stations other than New York if their utilization factor falls below the benchmark of 80 per cent;

22. *Urges* those intergovernmental bodies whose average utilization factor has for the past 10 years been below the benchmark of 80 per cent to take that factor into account when planning their future sessions in order to achieve that benchmark;

B

Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the capital master plan, including the reassignment of conference-servicing staff to

swing spaces, will not compromise the quality of conference services provided to Member States in the six official languages and the equal treatment of the language services, which should be provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to receiving the maximum quality of services;

2. *Requests* all meeting requesters and organizers to liaise closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on all matters related to the scheduling of meetings to allow maximum predictability in coordinating activities at Headquarters during the construction period;

3. *Requests* the Committee on Conferences to keep the matter under constant review, and requests the Secretary-General to report regularly to the Committee on matters pertaining to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations during the construction period;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate information technology support for conference services, within the existing resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in order to ensure their seamless operation throughout the implementation of the capital master plan;

5. *Notes* that, for the duration of the implementation of the capital master plan, a part of the conference-servicing staff and information technology resources of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has been temporarily relocated to swing spaces, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide adequate support, within the existing resources of the Department, to ensure continued maintenance of the information technology facilities of the Department, implementation of the global information technology initiative and delivery of high-quality conference services;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult Member States on initiatives that affect the utilization of conference services and conference facilities;

III
Integrated global management

1. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Secretary-General in the context of the integrated global management initiative to establish and implement in the four main duty stations common performance indicators and single information technology systems (such as gData, gMeets, gDoc and gText), and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

2. *Recalls* section III, paragraph 15, of its resolution 66/233, and requests the Secretary-General to complete the internal reviews concerning accountability mechanisms and the clear delineation of responsibility between the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Directors General of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna for conference management policies, operations and resource utilization, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

3. *Notes* the initiatives undertaken in the context of integrated global management aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and

improving the quality of conference services, and in this regard stresses the importance of ensuring equal treatment of conference-servicing staff, as well as the principle of equal grade for equal work at the four main duty stations;

4. *Also notes* that the effects of workload-sharing in the context of global document management remain minimal, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek ways to promote workload-sharing among the four main duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

5. *Emphasizes* that the major goals of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management are to provide high-quality documents in a timely manner in all official languages, in accordance with established regulations, as well as high-quality conference services to Member States at all duty stations, and to achieve those aims as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

6. *Notes* that the pool of language professionals at duty stations is uneven in terms of language combinations, and requests the Secretary-General to develop recruitment, subcontracting and outreach policies that take full account of these imbalances and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving the maximum quality of services, with full respect for the specificities of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

8. *Reiterates* the need for the Secretary-General to ensure the compatibility of technologies used in all duty stations and to ensure that they are user-friendly in all official languages;

9. *Also reiterates* that the satisfaction of Member States is a key performance indicator in conference management and conference services;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that measures taken by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the Department, provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and are in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on progress made in this regard;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore best practices and techniques in client satisfaction evaluations and to report regularly to the General Assembly on the results achieved;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to seek the evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, taking into consideration also comments and complaints raised by Member States either in writing or during meetings, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his exploration of innovative ways to systematically capture and analyse feedback from Member States and chairs and secretaries of committees on the quality of conference services and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to seek evaluation by Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, including through the language-specific informational meetings held once a year, ahead of the substantive session of the Committee on Conferences, or any necessary meeting scheduled upon the request of Member States, not to exceed two meetings per year, and to ensure that such measures provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and that they are in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly apprised of progress made in integrated global management;

15. *Notes with concern* that the Secretary-General did not include in his report on the pattern of conferences[2] information about the financial savings achieved through the implementation of the integrated global management projects, as requested in section III, paragraph 4, of its resolution 63/248, in section III, paragraph 12, of its resolution 64/230, in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 65/245 and in section III, paragraph 14, of its resolution 66/233, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General redouble his efforts to include this information in his next report on the pattern of conferences;

16. *Notes* the flextime pilot project initiated by the United Nations Office at Vienna, stresses that the rules and regulations of the United Nations governing human resources issues should be applied uniformly during the implementation of the pilot project, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the evaluation of the pilot project, including a recommendation on whether the project should be continued at the United Nations Office at Vienna and further implemented at other duty stations;

17. *Welcomes* the proximity rule as an efficient approach, where feasible, to servicing meetings away from duty stations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to rigorously apply the proximity rule to applicable meetings without jeopardizing the quality of services and to report thereon to the Committee at its substantive session in 2013;

IV
Matters related to documentation and publications

1. *Emphasizes* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms* its decision in section IV of its resolution 64/230 that all reports adopted by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council shall be issued as documents in all official languages of the United Nations in a timely manner before their consideration by the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/117 A of 10 December 1981, 51/211 A to E, 52/214, 53/208 A to E and 59/265, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the support necessary to that effect and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its sixty-eighth session;

3. *Reiterates with concern* its request that the Secretary-General ensure that the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in all six official languages be strictly respected as regards both the distribution of printed copies and the posting of parliamentary documentation on the Official Document System and

the United Nations website, in keeping with section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 55/222;

4. *Stresses* that matters related to conference management, including documentation, fall within the purview of the Fifth Committee;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of the timely issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

6. *Acknowledges* that a multipronged approach is required to find a solution to the perennial difficulties of the late issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

7. *Recognizes* the work done by the interdepartmental task force on documentation chaired by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in positively addressing the problem of issuance of documents for the Fifth Committee;

8. *Encourages* the Chairs of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to continue to promote cooperation between the two bodies in the sphere of documentation;

9. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the task force to shepherd the submission of documents by the author departments of the Secretariat;

10. *Notes* that accurate, timely and consistent information provided by the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee during its informal consultations facilitates the decision-making process in the Committee;

11. *Notes with satisfaction* that all documents submitted on time and within the word limit were processed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management within four weeks, and encourages the Secretary-General to sustain that level of performance;

12. *Reaffirms* its decision in section III, paragraph 9, of its resolution 59/265 that the issuance of documents in all six official languages on planning, budgetary and administrative matters requiring urgent consideration by the General Assembly shall be accorded priority;

13. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General direct all departments of the Secretariat to include the following elements in their reports:

(a) A summary of the report;

(b) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(c) Relevant background information;

14. *Also reiterates its request* that all documents submitted to legislative organs by the Secretariat and intergovernmental and expert bodies for consideration and action have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

15. *Notes with concern* that only 65 per cent of the author departments reached the compliance rate of 90 per cent in the timely submission of their reports to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and requests the Secretary-General to enforce the slotting system more rigorously through a dedicated focus, such as the interdepartmental task force on documentation, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

16. *Urges* author departments to fully adhere to deadlines in meeting the goal of 90 per cent submission compliance, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that documents submitted late do not adversely affect the issuance of documents submitted on time and in compliance with set guidelines;

17. *Reiterates its request* in section IV, paragraph 18, of its resolution 66/233 that the Secretary-General provide information on the waiver process for documents that are submitted over the word limit;

18. *Welcomes* the interactions between the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the author departments on waiver management, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure continuous efforts in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

19. *Emphasizes* the role of Member States and their intergovernmental bodies in determining the policies of conference management;

20. *Stresses* that proposals to change such policies are to be approved by Member States in their relevant intergovernmental bodies;

21. *Recalls* paragraphs 23 and 24 of the annex to its resolution 55/285 of 7 September 2001 and section IV, paragraph 23, of its resolution 66/233, and requests the Secretary-General to elaborate the scope of the paper-smart concept so that it becomes a more comprehensive concept based on the use of modern technology in order to better serve Member States, bearing in mind the principle of language parity among the six official languages of the United Nations, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, including detailed information on:

(a) Technological benchmarks, including but not limited to data security and services provided to Member States;

(b) Implications for financial and human resources, budgetary and procurement procedures;

(c) Implementation time frames at the four main duty stations;

(d) Integration of the related information and communications technology projects with Umoja;

(e) Business continuity plans;

(f) Possible training needs;

(g) Availability of the paper-smart portal;

(h) Accessibility for persons with disabilities;

22. *Notes* that the Official Document System is the official digital repository of the United Nations;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents onto the United Nations website in all six official languages on a priority basis so that these archives will also be available to Member States through that medium;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on a detailed time frame for the digitization of all important

older United Nations documents, including parliamentary documents, and on options for expediting this process within existing resources;

25. *Notes* the pilot project undertaken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the United Nations Office at Vienna to make a transition to digital recordings of meetings in the six official languages of the Organization as a cost-saving measure;

26. *Emphasizes* that the further expansion of this measure would require consideration, including of its legal, financial and human resources implications, by the General Assembly and full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon and on the evaluation of the pilot project mentioned above to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

27. *Recalls* paragraph 5 of its resolution 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, and stresses that the timely issuance of verbatim records constitutes an important part of the services provided to Member States;

V
Matters related to translation and interpretation

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages;

2. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General ensure that the terminology used in the translation and interpretation services reflects the latest linguistic norms and terminology of the official languages in order to ensure the highest quality;

3. *Reaffirms* section V, paragraph 4, of its resolution 66/233, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General, when recruiting temporary assistance in the language services, including through the use of international or local contracts, as appropriate, ensure that all language services are given equal treatment and are provided with equally favourable working conditions and resources, with a view to achieving maximum quality of their services, with full respect for the specificities of each of the six official languages and taking into account their respective workloads;

4. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General consider further measures aimed at decreasing the vacancy rates at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold competitive examinations for the recruitment of language staff sufficiently in advance in order to fill current and future vacancies in the language services in a timely manner and to inform the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session of efforts in this regard;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the quality of translation of documents into the six official languages, giving particular significance to the accuracy of translation;

7. *Reiterates* paragraph 8 of the annex to resolution 2 (I) of 1 February 1946, on the rules of procedure concerning languages, whereby all resolutions and

other important documents shall be made available in the official languages and, upon the request of any representative, any other document shall be made available in any or all of the official languages;

8. *Stresses* the need to ensure the highest possible quality of contractual translation, and requests the Secretary-General to report on measures to be taken in this regard;

9. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General provide, at all duty stations, adequate staff at the appropriate level, with a view to ensuring appropriate quality control for external translation, with due consideration of the principle of equal grade for equal work;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the experience, lessons learned and best practices of the main duty stations in performing quality control of contractual translations, including on requirements relating to the number and appropriate level of staff needed to carry out this function;

11. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to establish globally standardized performance indicators and costing models aimed at a more cost-effective strategy for the in-house processing of documents, and requests the Secretary-General to submit such information to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken by the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolutions, to address, among other things, the issue of the replacement of retiring staff in the language services, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain and intensify those efforts, including the strengthening of cooperation with institutions that train language specialists, in order to meet the needs in the six official languages of the United Nations;

13. *Notes* the need for energetic measures to avoid a disruptive shortage of applicants and a high turnover rate in the language career fields, and requests the Secretary-General to use the appropriate means to improve the internship programme, including through partnerships with organizations that promote the official languages of the United Nations;

14. *Also notes*, in this regard, that recent efforts have led to the signing of memorandums of understanding and collaboration agreements with two universities in Africa, and that a memorandum of understanding has been signed with a Latin American institution;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make further concerted efforts to promote outreach programmes, such as traineeships and internships, and to introduce innovative methods to increase awareness of the programmes, including through partnerships with Member States, relevant international organizations and language institutions in all regions, in particular to close the wide gap in Africa and Latin America, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its sixty-eighth session;

16. *Requests* the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management, to continue to increase its efforts to raise awareness among all Member States about opportunities for employment and internships in the language services at the four main duty stations;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the positive experience with traineeships at Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Vienna in training young professionals in and attracting them to the translation and interpretation services of the United Nations, while enhancing the pool of qualified language professionals in language combinations that are critical for succession-planning purposes, and requests the Secretary-General to develop the initiative further, to extend it to all duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

18. *Notes* that the consolidated lists of individuals and entities subject to sanctions, according to the sanctions committees of the Security Council, have not yet been translated into all six official languages, reiterates its recommendation that the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions of the Security Council look further into the practices related to the issuance of these consolidated lists, including their translation, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon at its sixty-eighth session.

United Nations A/67/665

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 145

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Justin **Kisoka** (United Republic of Tanzania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th and 22nd meetings on 9 October and 24 December 2012. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/67/SR.4 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 (A/67/224).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.7

4. At its 22nd meeting, on 24 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" (A/C.5/67/L.7), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Norway.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.7 without a vote (see para. 6).

12-66624 (E) 170113

Please recycle

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/235 and 55/236 of 23 December 2000, 58/256 of 23 December 2003, 61/243 of 22 December 2006 and 64/249 of 24 December 2009,

Reaffirming the principles set out in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235,

Recalling its request to the Secretary-General, in paragraph 15 of resolution 55/235, to update the composition of the levels of contribution of Member States for peacekeeping operations described in the resolution on a triennial basis, in conjunction with the regular budget scale of assessments reviews, in accordance with the criteria established in the resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolutions 55/235 and 55/236,[1]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and of the updated composition of levels of contribution for peacekeeping operations for the period 2013 to 2015 contained therein;[2]

2. *Reaffirms* the following general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations:

(a) The financing of such operations is the collective responsibility of all States Members of the United Nations and, accordingly, the costs of peacekeeping operations are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) In order to meet the expenditures caused by such operations, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures under the regular budget of the United Nations;

(c) Whereas the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions to peacekeeping operations, the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards peacekeeping operations involving heavy expenditures;

(d) The special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security should be borne in mind in connection with their contributions to the financing of peace and security operations;

[1] A/67/224.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

(e) Where circumstances warrant, the General Assembly should give special consideration to the situation of any Member States which are victims of, and those which are otherwise involved in, the events or actions leading to a peacekeeping operation;

3. *Also reaffirms* that assessment rates for the financing of peacekeeping operations should be based on the scale of assessments for the regular budget of the United Nations, with an appropriate and transparent system of adjustments based on the levels of Member States, consistent with the principles outlined above;

4. *Further reaffirms* that the permanent members of the Security Council should form a separate level and that, consistent with their special responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and security, they should be assessed at a higher rate than for the regular budget;

5. *Reaffirms* that all discounts resulting from adjustments to the regular budget assessment rates of Member States in levels C through J shall be borne on a pro rata basis by the permanent members of the Security Council;

6. *Also reaffirms* that the least developed countries should be placed in a separate level and receive the highest rate of discount available under the scale;

7. *Further reaffirms* that the statistical data used for setting the rates of assessment for peacekeeping should be the same as the data used in preparing the regular budget scale of assessments, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

8. *Reaffirms* the decision to create levels of discount to facilitate automatic, predictable movement between categories on the basis of the per capita gross national income of Member States;

9. *Decides* that South Sudan should be assigned to level I for 2011 and 2012;

10. *Notes* that, pursuant to its resolution 47/217 of 23 December 1992, the assessment of South Sudan for the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund will be calculated by the application of its first rate of assessment for peacekeeping operations to the authorized level of the Fund;

11. *Decides* that, as from 1 January 2013, the rates of assessment for peacekeeping should be based on the ten levels of contribution and parameters set forth in the table below:

Level	*Criterion*	*Threshold in United States dollars (2013-2015)*	*Discount (percentage)*
A	Permanent members of the Security Council	Not applicable	Premium
B	All Member States, except those covered below and level A	Not applicable	0

Level	*Criterion*	*Threshold in United States dollars (2013-2015)*	*Discount (percentage)*
C	As listed in the annex to General Assembly resolution 55/235	Not applicable	7.5
D	Member States with per capita gross national income less than 2 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 16,676	20
E	Member States with per capita gross national income less than 1.8 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 15,009	40
F	Member States with per capita gross national income less than 1.6 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 13,341	60
G	Member States with per capita gross national income less than 1.4 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 11,674	70
H	Member States with per capita gross national income less than 1.2 times the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 10,006	80 (or 70 on a voluntary basis)[a]
I	Member States with per capita gross national income less than the average for all Member States (except level A, C and J contributors)	Under 8,338	80
J	Least developed countries (except level A and C contributors)	Not applicable	90

[a] Member States in level H* have a discount of 70 per cent.

12. *Encourages* States Members of the United Nations at all levels to move up voluntarily in their level of contribution;

13. *Welcomes with appreciation* the commitment of certain Member States to undertake voluntarily to contribute to peacekeeping operations at a rate higher than required by their per capita income;

14. *Recalls* its decision that, at any time during the scale period, a Member State may make a voluntary commitment to contribute at a rate higher than its

current rate by informing the General Assembly through the Secretary-General, and the Assembly may take note of that decision;[3]

15. *Reaffirms* that Member States will be assigned to the lowest level of contribution with the highest discount for which they are eligible, unless they indicate a decision to move to a higher level;

16. *Also reaffirms* that, for purposes of determining the eligibility of Member States for contribution in particular levels during the 2013-2015 scale period, the average per capita gross national income of all Member States will be 8,338 United States dollars and the per capita gross national income of Member States will be the average of 2005 to 2010 figures;

17. *Further reaffirms* that transition periods of two years will apply to countries moving up by two levels, and that transition periods of three years will apply to countries moving up by three or more levels without prejudice to paragraph 15 above;

18. *Reaffirms* that transitions as specified above will occur in equal increments over the transition period as designated above;

19. *Endorses* the updated composition of levels to be applied in adjusting regular budget scale rates to establish Member States' rates of assessment for peacekeeping operations for the period from 2013 to 2015;[4]

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue updating the composition of the levels described above on a triennial basis, in conjunction with the regular budget scale of assessment reviews, in accordance with the criteria established above, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

21. *Recognizes* the need to reform the current methodology for apportioning the expenses of peacekeeping operations;

22. *Decides* to review the structure of the levels of the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations, during its seventieth session.

[3] Resolution 55/236, para. 6.

[4] A/67/224, annex III, and A/67/224/Add.1.

United Nations A/67/666

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 128

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Justin **Kisoka** (United Republic of Tanzania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session, and to allocate to the Fifth Committee, the item entitled:

> "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors:
>
> "(a) United Nations;
>
> "(b) United Nations peacekeeping operations;
>
> "(c) International Trade Centre;
>
> "(d) United Nations University;
>
> "(e) Capital master plan;
>
> "(f) United Nations Development Programme;
>
> "(g) United Nations Children's Fund;
>
> "(h) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
>
> "(i) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
>
> "(j) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
>
> "(k) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;
>
> "(l) United Nations Population Fund;

12-66630 (E) 180113

Please recycle

"(m) United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

"(n) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

"(o) United Nations Office for Project Services;

"(p) International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994;

"(q) International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991;

"(r) United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)."

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th and 22nd meetings, on 12 October and 24 December 2012. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/67/SR.7 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) For the period ended 31 December 2011, the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations (A/67/5 (Vol. I) and Corr.1 and 2), the International Trade Centre (A/67/5 (Vol. III)), the United Nations University (A/67/5 (Vol. IV)), the United Nations Development Programme (A/67/5/Add.1), the United Nations Children's Fund (A/67/5/Add.2), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/67/5/Add.3), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/67/5/Add.4), the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/67/5/Add.5), the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/67/5/Add.6 and Corr.1), the United Nations Population Fund (A/67/5/Add.7), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (A/67/5/Add.8 and Corr.1), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (A/67/5/Add.9 and Corr.1), the United Nations Office for Project Services (A/67/5/Add.10), the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (A/67/5/Add.11), the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (A/67/5/Add.12), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (A/67/5/Add.13 and Corr.1);

(b) Reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 2011 (A/67/319, sects. I and II) and on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained

in its reports on the United Nations funds and programmes for the financial period ended 31 December 2011 (A/67/319/Add.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/381);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concise summary of the principal findings and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/67/173).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 12 October, the Chair of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors introduced the reports of the Board (see A/C.5/67/SR.7).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.8

5. At its 22nd meeting, on 24 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors" (A/C.5/67/L.8), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Egypt.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.8 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/212 B of 31 March 1998 and its decision 57/573 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also its resolutions 65/243 A and B of 24 December 2010 and 30 June 2011 and 66/232 A and B of 24 December 2011 and 21 June 2012,

Recalling further its resolutions 55/231 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/290 B of 18 June 2003, 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/257 of 8 May 2006, 61/245 of 22 December 2006, 63/276 of 7 April 2009, 64/259 of 29 March 2010 and 66/257 of 9 April 2012,

Having considered, for the period ended 31 December 2011, the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations,[1] the International Trade Centre,[2] the United Nations University,[3] the United Nations Development Programme,[4] the United Nations Children's Fund,[5] the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,[6] the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[7] the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[8] the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme,[9] the United Nations Population Fund,[10] the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[11] the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[12] the United Nations Office for Project Services,[13] the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,[14] the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5*, vol. I and corrigenda (A/67/5 (Vol. I) and Corr.1 and 2).
[2] Ibid., vol. III (A/67/5 (Vol. III)).
[3] Ibid., vol. IV (A/67/5 (Vol. IV)).
[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5A* (A/67/5/Add.1).
[5] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5B* (A/67/5/Add.2).
[6] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5C* (A/67/5/Add.3).
[7] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5D* (A/67/5/Add.4).
[8] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5E* (A/67/5/Add.5).
[9] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5F* and corrigendum (A/67/5/Add.6 and Corr.1).
[10] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5G* (A/67/5/Add.7).
[11] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5H* and corrigendum (A/67/5/Add.8 and Corr.1).
[12] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5I* and corrigendum (A/67/5/Add.9 and Corr.1).
[13] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5J* (A/67/5/Add.10).
[14] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5K* (A/67/5/Add.11).

Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991[15] and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women,[16] the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concise summary of the principal findings and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors,[17] the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 2011[18] and on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its reports on the United Nations funds and programmes for the financial period ended 31 December 2011[19] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[20]

1. *Accepts* the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports and audit opinions of the Board of Auditors for the above-mentioned organizations;[1-16]

2. *Approves* the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors;

3. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[20] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Board of Auditors shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of audits;

5. *Decides* to consider further the reports of the Board of Auditors on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda[14] and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia[15] under the respective agenda items relating to the Tribunals;

6. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the continued high quality of its reports, in particular with respect to its comments on the management of resources and improving the presentation of financial statements;

7. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors;[18,19]

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to ensure full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in a prompt and timely manner, to continue to hold programme managers accountable for the non-implementation of recommendations and to effectively address the root causes of the problems highlighted by the Board;

9. *Also reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide in his reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors a full explanation for the delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the

[15] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5L* (A/67/5/Add.12).
[16] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5M* and corrigendum (A/67/5/Add.13 and Corr.1).
[17] A/67/173.
[18] A/67/319, sects. I and II.
[19] A/67/319/Add.1.
[20] A/67/381.

Board, in particular those recommendations not yet fully implemented that are two or more years old;

10. *Further reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to indicate in future reports an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, as well as the priorities for their implementation and the office holders to be held accountable;

11. *Notes with deep concern* the recurrence of systemic problems previously identified by the Board of Auditors related to accounting for expendable and non-expendable property, cash fund management, procurement and contract management, and in this regard stresses the need for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors as a matter of priority;

12. *Recalls* paragraphs 45 and 46 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[20] requests the United Nations entities concerned to take all adequate measures to address the issues raised therein, and requests the Advisory Committee to request the Board to report thereon at its sixty-eighth session;

13. *Notes with concern* that the Board of Auditors identified in the financial statements of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the biennium ended 31 December 2011 one "other matter" relating to the impact of low levels of funding and cash on the internal control of the Agency, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the expeditious implementation of the recommendations of the Board;

14. *Also notes with concern* that the Board of Auditors identified in the financial statements of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the biennium ended 31 December 2011 one "emphasis of matter", namely that the internal control system of the Entity for oversight of operations, projects and programmes had not fully matured during the year to ensure consistent application throughout the Entity's operation, and one "other matter", on the transfer of assets and liabilities to the Entity at different dates, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the expeditious implementation of the recommendations of the Board;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the reports and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on major business transformation projects of the United Nations;

16. *Recalls* paragraphs 21 to 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[20] and urges the Secretary-General to implement, as a matter of priority, all the related recommendations of both the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee;

17. *Also recalls* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on major business transformation projects, as mentioned in paragraphs 21 to 26 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and encourages the Secretary-General to take into account these recommendations when preparing future initiatives of comparable size and complexity, including initiatives relating to institutional restructuring;

18. *Notes with concern* that the successful implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards at the United Nations, the peacekeeping operations, the United Nations University and the United Nations

Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women remain at high risk, and requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to invite all the heads of the United Nations entities to take the appropriate measures to mitigate these risks and to report thereon at its sixty-eighth session;

19. *Stresses* that results-based management is a central management tool for improving performance and ensuring the achievement of the expected results based on mandates provided by Member States;

20. *Also stresses* that the effective implementation of results-based management requires the Organization to create a sustained focus on results and therefore sustained and focused engagement by senior management, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to assign a senior manager with responsibility for implementing results-based management;

21. *Regrets* the significant deficiencies found by the Board of Auditors in the implementation of results-based budgeting in the United Nations, and in this regard urges the Secretary-General to address those deficiencies as a matter of priority;

22. *Reaffirms* its resolution 62/224 of 22 December 2007.

United Nations A/67/667

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 December 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 138

United Nations pension system

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Justin **Kisoka** (United Republic of Tanzania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "United Nations pension system" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 10th and 22nd meetings, on 24 October and 24 December 2012. Comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/67/SR.10 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on its fifty-ninth session (A/67/9);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and measures undertaken to increase diversification of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/C.5/67/2);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/525).

4. At the 10th meeting, on 24 October, the Chair of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board introduced the report of the Board (see A/C.5/67/SR.10).

12-66648 (E) 180113

Please recycle

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.9

5. At its 22nd meeting, on 24 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "United Nations pension system" (A/C.5/67/L.9), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Switzerland.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.9 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations pension system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 63/252 of 24 December 2008, 65/249 of 24 December 2010 and section V of its resolution 66/247 of 24 December 2011,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 2012,[1] including the financial statements of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the biennium ended 31 December 2011, the audit opinion and report of the Board of Auditors thereon, the information provided on the internal audits of the Fund and the observations of the Board and of the Audit Committee, the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the Fund and measures undertaken to increase diversification[2] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board for 2012,[1] in particular the actions taken by the Board as set out in chapter II.B of the report;

2. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

Actuarial matters

3. *Notes with deep concern* the results of the actuarial valuation of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, which revealed a deficit of 1.87 per cent of pensionable remuneration as at 31 December 2011, which was the Fund's second actuarial deficit following that of 0.38 per cent of pensionable remuneration as at 31 December 2009 and in this regard emphasizes the need to make every effort to address the actuarial situation of the Fund to ensure its long-term sustainability;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund meeting its target annual real rate of return of 3.5 per cent over the long term;

5. *Welcomes* the decision of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to establish a working group to consider possible measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Fund, and looks forward to receiving information on the group's findings and recommendations in the context of future reports of the Board;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 9* (A/67/9).
[2] A/C.5/67/2.
[3] A/67/525.

Financial statements of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and report of the Board of Auditors

6. *Notes* that the Board of Auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the biennium ended 31 December 2011;[4]

7. *Also notes* the improved status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund;

8. *Further notes* the progress made by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

Benefit provisions and pension adjustment system

9. *Notes* the advice of the consulting actuary and the Committee of Actuaries of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund that, given the serious impact that increased longevity has had on the actuarial situation of the Fund, raising the Fund's normal retirement age to age 65 would help to improve the actuarial situation of the Fund;

10. *Authorizes* the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to increase the normal retirement age to 65 for new participants in the Fund, with effect not later than from 1 January 2014, unless the General Assembly has not decided on a corresponding increase in the mandatory age of separation;

11. *Concurs*, in accordance with article 13 of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and with a view to securing continuity of pension rights, with the new transfer agreements of the Fund with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the African Development Bank, as approved by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and set out in annex XIV to the report of the Board for 2012, which will become effective 1 January 2013;

12. *Approves* new article 45 *bis*, as set out in annex XI to the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, which allows the Fund, in very specific circumstances, to pay a portion of a retiree's benefit directly to the retiree's former employing organization towards making restitution to the organization in cases where amounts had been embezzled by the staff member from the organization;

13. *Also approves* the technical changes in the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and the pension adjustment system in accordance with past decisions and amendments adopted by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the General Assembly, as set out in annexes XI and XIII, respectively, to the report of the Board;

14. *Takes note* of the amendments to the Administrative Rules of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, as set out in annex XII to the report of the Board, to refine the Administrative Rules and align them with the Regulations of the Fund;

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 9* (A/67/9), annex X.

15. *Recalls* paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and in this regard stresses that any consideration by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board of a medical standard for participation in the Fund should be in full compliance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/229 of 24 December 2011 on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto;

Investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the investments of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund[2] and measures undertaken to increase diversification and the observations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, as set out in its report;

17. *Recalls* its resolution 33/121 B of 19 December 1978;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as fiduciary for the investment of the assets of the Fund, to continue to diversify its investments between developed, developing and emerging markets, wherever this serves the interests of the participants and the beneficiaries of the Fund, and also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that decisions concerning the investments of the Fund in any country are implemented prudently, taking fully into account the four main criteria for investment, namely, safety, profitability, liquidity and convertibility, under the current volatile market conditions;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, as fiduciary for the investment of the assets of the Fund, to continue to explore prospects in all markets, taking into account risk-return profiles and always applying sound risk management techniques, and taking fully into account the four main criteria for investment of the Fund.